

THE FARMINGTON TIMES

Published Every Friday
A. W. BRADSHAW, Editor

Telephone No. 59.

Entered as second-class matter at the
Postoffice at Farmington, Mo.
Subscription, \$1.50 a year, in advance



IMPREGNABLE AMERICA

Faced with vast responsibilities for the future not only for our own citizens but of the happiness and peace of humanity in a crowded world, there was never a time when the question of the economic soundness of the United States possessed the importance it has today.

If democracy is to vindicate itself, it must not only win victories; it must use them. It must not only bring hope of freedom and peace; it must realize these hopes in a practical program. In order to do this, democracy must keep solvent. The question, therefore, of the economic soundness of the United States comes home to us with a new significance and a new point by reason of the very fact that the past four years have taught us how many things there are in the world that are greater than merely material possessions.

Face to face with a Herculean share in the work of rebuilding and reconstructing a war-torn and war-disorganized world, every patriot is asking himself with heightened interest whether the economic structure of the United States is fundamentally sound, after the wrenches and blows of war, or whether it has been so weakened that we are inevitably headed toward a period of doubt, uncertainty, slackened effort and unemployment. Are we to give ourselves during the coming months to the great problems which confront us, or is our foreground to be filled by the exasperating and irritating consequences of unusual difficulties in our efforts to make a living?

The answer to this question cannot be found in any easy rhetoric about our undeveloped resources and our potential markets. A nation's strength and soundness depends upon the soundness of its currency, the condition of its basic industries, the efficiency of its man power, the proportion of its debt to what it has to pay out of, and the spirit of its people.

This issue of the West at Work contains facts as to American economic conditions at the present hour, so presented as to enable the reader to apply these tests to his country. They show that the United States has as much gold as England, France and Germany put together; that it has less paper money in proportion to its gold reserves than any European belligerent; that it has lost but 1-700 part of its working man power by war as against 1-25 part for England and 1-16 for Germany and France; and that of its eleven great basic industries, so far from the war having excessively stimulated them, two have been depressed, two have been moderately stimulated, one has been stimulated excessively, while six—corn, wheat, cotton, pig iron, petroleum and coal—have but moved during the war period at a healthful rate as if there had been no war at all. The question as to America's possession of the intangible values without which there may be no true economic soundness, is convincingly answered by William H. Danforth's charming little article on the spirit of the American army overseas.

The economic position of the United States is impregnable. The nation's business is founded upon a rock. We may go on with confident hearts and with great good cheer.

"The Father of Republics," is the title that has been conferred upon President Wilson, by Hon. William J. Bryan. Such title is most fitting, and will doubtless "take."

AN IMPENDING CATAclysm

Ten million men were killed in battle during the war and the influenza accounted for 6,000,000 more persons. Sixteen million human beings dead, who under normal conditions, might be living and laughing today!

Horrible, you say? Yes, it is horrible, but the real horror is yet to be faced. During this holiday, season there are in Europe and Asia more than 100,000,000 men, women and children slowly dying of hunger. Food supplies are exhausted and winter is not yet actually here.

Cast your eye over the map of the Old World. Nearly everywhere there is governmental chaos, transportation facilities are in a hopeless snarl, every man's hand is lifted against his neighbor and where there is not actual fratricidal fighting there is fatal apathy. Russia, Turkey, Austria, Jugoslavia and Czechoslovakia—all are facing the specter of famine.

We in America and in the allied countries have been so wrapped up in the winning of the war, the peace terms, bringing our soldiers home and similar problems that we have been giving but scant thought to the grisly horror that the other half of the world is facing.

Every now and then some earnest publicist or statesman tries to picture the coming disaster, but he gains little attention. The average American says to himself:

"Oh, yes, we heard those starvation stories during the war, but so far all

those countries have managed to get through the winters. I guess they'll get through again."

The Republic believes that the situation abroad is critical. It believes that unless remedial measures are taken at once, millions of men, women and children will starve between now and next summer. Before famine civilization cannot stand. A starving half-Europe plunged into barbarism, with force as the only weapon in the hands of man, and barbaric half-Europe means of a weakening of the civilization of the whole world.

Let the Governments of the United States and the Entente tell us exactly what the situation is. So far our information is incomplete. If millions of people are actually starving let us know how we can help.

There are great stocks of food in Argentina, Australia, India and the United States. Rather than let one baby starve, let us turn all our ships to the task of taking food to Europe. The Peace Conference, the reconstruction work in France and Belgium and even the bringing home of troops—all of them can wait, but the famished millions cannot. It is not a question of friend or enemy. The Good Samaritan didn't halt for details.

If a million, or a thousand, or even a hundred persons starve in Europe and Asia this winter for lack of food that might have been sent them, it will be a blot on the civilized nations of the world that will remain until the final Judgment Day.—St. Louis Republic.

ILLITERACY IN MISSOURI

Although some of the recently published figures as to illiteracy in Missouri are manifestly erroneous, the facts are bad enough to justify the organized campaign to improve school facilities, especially in some of the rural sections. Missouri stands twenty-first among the states in percentage of illiteracy, 4.3 per cent of the people 10 years of age and over being unable to read and write. There are 5.3 per cent illiterates among males of voting age, 10.1 per cent illiterate white persons of foreign birth and 17.4 per cent illiterate negroes. There are twenty-eight states that have a larger percentage of illiterate males of voting age, but there are thirty-four states that have a smaller percentage of illiterate native-born whites of native parentage. Missouri's record is 3.4 per cent, while the percentage of illiteracy among native whites of foreign or mixed parentage is only 1.2. This is significant. It shows that the children of the immigrants have better educational opportunities than the children of native white parentage. Such illiterates are found chiefly in rural sections, since truancy laws are enforced in the cities. The figures we have cited are taken from the Statistical Abstract of the United States of the last census.

The United States Bureau of Education gives more interesting figures as to school population, attendance, length of school year, number of teachers, salaries of teachers and total expenditures for schools for the year ending in June, 1916. Missouri stood seventh in estimated number of children 5 to 18 years of age and sixth in daily average attendance. But against this record, it stood twenty-ninth in average duration of school days, 161-8. It stood eighth in number of teachers, thirteenth in total salaries and thirteenth in total expenditures. These figures indicate that the state did not keep pace with many neighbors with much smaller school population. If the urban schools were eliminated, the contrast with Iowa, for example, would be still more striking.

The State Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Larkin, quotes still gloomier statistics, probably based on per capita estimates, after eliminating urban schools, but even the general figures we have given show that the situation demands immediate attention.

GERMAN ARMY AND NAVY LOSSES REACH 6,000,000,000

New York, Dec. 21.—When the total German casualties are published, the number of dead will be about 2,000,000, according to The Cologne Gazette of November 25, a copy of which has been received here. Up to October 25, the total casualties reported were 6,066,769, of whom more than 4,750,000 were Prussians. The total includes the naval casualties, which were 70,000, comprised of more than 25,000 dead, more than 15,000 missing and nearly 20,000 wounded.

Casualty list No. 1284, published on Oct. 24, according to the Cologne Gazette, placed the number of dead at 1,611,404, the number of wounded at 3,683,143, and the missing at 772,522. The paper says that of the number reported missing, 180,000 may be considered dead.

The Cologne paper uses the word "appalling" in describing the casualties among the officers. The total on Oct. 24 included 44,700 officers killed, 82,460 officers wounded and 13,600 missing, a total of 140,760. The loss in officers alone, the paper points out, exceeds the total casualties of Germany in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, when the total losses were 129,698.

The total on Oct. 24, which did not include casualty lists from the fighting on the Western front after that date nor the German losses in Palestine, was apportioned by the paper as follows among the various army contingents:

Prussia, 1,262,060 dead, 2,882,671 wounded, 616,139 missing; total, 4,760,870.

Bavaria, 150,658 dead, 363,823 wounded, 72,115 missing; total 586,596.

Saxony, 108,017 dead, 252,027 wounded, 51,787 missing; total, 411,831.

Württemberg, 64,507 dead, 155,654 wounded, 16,802 missing; total 236,963.

Navy, 25,862 dead, 28,968 wounded, 15,679 missing; total, 70,509.

MAKING MO. CHILDREN SAFE FOR DEMOCRACY

The world has been made safe for

democracy. Now democracy must be assured by a strong and healthy citizenship, able in mind and body, fully equipped to assist in the development of the new world-order being created today. This is the task that confronts the State. This problem is upon us now. It must be faced with the same enthusiasm and intelligence, the same spirit of selflessness and sacrifice that has been shown in the war.

Such a spirit has been shown in Missouri by the group of men and women who have, as members of the Missouri Children's Code Commission, for the last two years given much of their time and energy in the preparation of the constructive program of child-care, known as the Children's Code, to be submitted to the coming session of the legislature. This commission was appointed by Gov. Gardner to revise the laws relating to children and to recommend such new legislation as is necessary for properly safeguarding the children of the State. Under this Children's Code, education and training for life and work is placed within the reach of every future citizen; treatment is provided for children with mental and physical defects, such as the feeble minded, deaf, blind and crippled children; the destitute and neglected children are cared for by the State. Here is a program which will go far to prevent poverty disease and crime.

The task of preparing this Children's Code for Missouri is over. The Commission has spent many months carefully studying the conditions in the State affecting the lives of children. It has studied the present statutes in Missouri relating to children and recommends the revision of many of them. It has asked authorities in every State in the Union what their experience has been in dealing with these children's problems. The work of the Commission is over. The obligation now lies with the people of the State and with the members of the Legislature.

"If the people of Missouri who are interested in the welfare of children will get behind the campaign (for the passage of these children's laws) by letting their State Representatives and Senators know where they stand, it will be possible to enact into law a part, or perhaps, all of the Children's Code. It is a case of everybody concerned getting together and insisting upon action at Jefferson City," writes the Kansas City Times, in an editorial on Dec. 5, 1918.

The St. Louis Committee of the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense is conducting the St. Louis campaign for the passage of the Children's Code. A Speakers' Bureau has been formed under the chairmanship of Mrs. W. Bartlett sending speakers throughout the city to explain these children's laws. Slides, calling attention to the Code, are being displayed in the picture shows. Ministers of the city have been requested by the Committee to set January 5th as Children's Code Day, to give the whole or part of the sermon the explanation of the Code. The Child Welfare Committee of the Council of Defense, whose chairman is Mrs. Robert McKJones, is arranging a large luncheon at which prominent speakers will discuss the Code. Children's Code posters are being exhibited throughout the downtown sections.

The executive committee of the Central Council of Social Agencies of St. Louis, a delegate body representing the agencies and institutions in the city interested in the welfare of the children of the State, unanimously endorsed the Children's Code at the meeting on December 11th, stating "the Council believes that these laws are designed for the public good and will safeguard the interests of all the children of the State, and care for and protect the destitute, delinquent and defective children. . . . The Council heartily indorses the Code and recommends the passage of these bills by the coming session of the Legislature."

FROM LEE HIGHTOWER

Nov. 26, 1918.

Miss Iva Chamberlain.
Dear Friend Iva:
I will endeavor to write you. All is well with me. Hope that you are the same.

Well, Iva, since difficulties are almost settled over here, I hope that the time will hasten when I can be on my way back to the good old U. S. A.

Say, you can get in practice making cakes and pies, for I am going to spend some of my time visiting my friends when I get back in Missouri, and you may know I will have a good appetite for some good home-cooked rations, as they call it in the army. In other words, country grub.

You remember how much pie and cake I ate last winter when Henry and I came over to your home, and you can guess that I can eat twice that amount when I get out of the army. I don't mean that we are starving in the army, for we are not; we get plenty to eat but it don't taste like home east. Iva, I am sorry that I haven't wrote you sooner, but I have been moving around pretty much the last two months and you see when we are on the march we are not where there is any Y. M. C. A., so have a poor chance of getting paper and a place to write. Will tell you more when I arrive home.

I am now in Luxemburg, am seeing some fine country. Iva, I guess that new disease is pretty well under control by now. I guess the most of the boys in the camps will soon be mustered out so they can return home. I am proud that I came over here and saw service. I did my part on the front so I will be satisfied to come home and live in peace the remainder of my days.

Must close,
Sincerely yours,
LEE E. HIGHTOWER.

Ambulance Co. 15, 2nd Division,
American Ex. Forces, via N. Y.

FROM PAUL NATIONS

The following letter is from Paul D. Nations, son of Judge and Mrs. Gilbert O. Nations, to his mother. Paul enlisted as a volunteer last spring, though three years under the draft

age. He is now a corporal and has recently received appointment as a field clerk.

France, Nov. 18, 1918.

My Dearest Mamma:
It has been several weeks since I have had opportunity to write, and I fear you have been somewhat worried. But I am still well and happy, though now that the war is over, I am a little homesick.

But it is a great consolation to know that it is all over and that we will be home within three or four months at the most. And we must all consider ourselves extremely lucky to be able to return home without injury.

During the last week of the war we experienced some of the sensations of the front lines and were several times under fire from the artillery of the enemy. Believe me, it is interesting to be wondering just how near the next six-inch shell is going to burst. We are following closely the advancing infantry and the dead were strewn thickly by the waysides—friends and enemies who have made the supreme sacrifice for the right as they saw it.

It seems to me that the present terrible situation of the poverty-stricken German people is somewhat providential, as it affords us Americans the opportunity to rescue them and so prove still more conclusively the merit of the cause for which we have slaughtered their men and sacrificed ours.

The war has been won by Yankee pep and we are justly proud of the outcome. I want if possible to write Dad tonight, so will close hoping my darling Mamma and all are well. I hope to see you all before many months.

Your loving
PAUL.

NO GOVERNMENT WOOL PURCHASES AFTER DECEMBER 31.

That the Government will not buy any of the 1918 wool clip after December 31, is stated in a telegram to A. J. Meyer, Director of Extension Service to the University of Missouri College of Agriculture. Which means that anyone who might be holding back old wool for higher prices will not receive them from the Government. The message:

"The Government will not purchase any wool shorn during 1918 unless it has been loaded on cars and hauled thru to an approved distributing center or prior to December 31, 1918, and then only in case such approved dealer file a statement and a copy of the invoice thereof within five days after receipt of invoice."

THE CHINCH BUG GAINING IN MISSOURI

All Missouri insect scourges are vitally influenced by climatic conditions. They have their favorable and unfavorable years the same as crops. The chinch bug is especially subject to such conditions. Dry years and mild winters are sure to prove favorable for the scourge. The pests appear in waves of great abundance followed by years when few bugs are to be found.

The University of Missouri College of Agriculture has been studying and recording the activities of this pest since 1912. In 1912 the pest as a scourge was restricted to the west border counties. In 1914 it suddenly sprang into prominence as a severe scourge over much of western, central and north central Missouri, doing great damage. The following year it declined rapidly, being abundantly only in a few counties in the north central part of the state. In 1916 it was practically a thing of the past, but during 1917 and 1918 it seemed to be getting on its feet again for another attack, according to L. Haseman.

This year, Oklahoma, Kansas and Illinois had local chinch bug outbreaks of importance and it is not at all unlikely that Missouri farmers will have the pest to fight next summer unless steps are taken during the winter to destroy the pest in its harboring places. In all localities where the pest attracted any attention at all during the past summer and fall the winter harboring places should be burned over or plowed. Clump grass, weedy fence rows, road sides, and other dry shelter serve as harboring places. By burning over such places many of the bugs are killed by the heat and others exposed to the weather, and few are left in the spring to fly to wheat fields to do damage next year.

HOW FUR AND WHUR TO?

"Old Bill, a wealthy Tolly county farmer, who lives near Hollister, Mo.," says the Warrensburg Star-Journal, "can neither read nor write, but while he cannot tell one letter from another he can read figures. Some time ago he concluded to buy an automobile, and since the agency is in Springfield he took a young fellow who knew how to run a car with him to bring back the car.

"It is a 65-mile drive and for the most part through the woods and hills. On the return trip they lost the road. While they were beating the bush trying to get their bearings it developed that the young fellow could not read or write, either."

"In telling about the trip later on when they arrived home, Old Bill said: 'We driv purty nigh all day before we cum to whur the country looked nateral. I reckon them sign posts is all right fur folks that kin read, but whenever I seed one of 'em I could tell how fur, but couldn't tell whur to.'"

FOR THE LOCAL MERCHANT

It is a wise storekeeper who encourages his clerks to tell him of the criticisms and complaints which his customers make about the goods or service. A word dropped by a dissatisfied customer may contain the answer to why this or that line does not sell, or what was wrong with a certain advertisement that it didn't produce better results, or if the general plan of the store wants tuning up.—Popular Storekeeper.

Peace on earth and
good will toward
men,
is our wish, as the old year
passes and the New Year
is ushered in.



Rickus Grocery Store

PRETTY SOFT

A soldier of the Legion in meek subjection stands;
He sadly murmurs "kamarad"! He holds up both his hands.
Said he: "I crave a beefsteak, some sauerkraut and wine,
For I was born at Bingen, fair Bingen on the Rhine."

"While passing to the windward of the troops of Uncle Sam
I got a whiff of bacon, or maybe it was ham;
I fain would have a rasher with a cool and frothy stein
For I was born at Bingen, fair Bingen on the Rhine."

"Oh, lead me to the canteen or Salvation Army hut;
My stomach is rebelling and it thinks my throat is cut.
For days I have been fasting and for food I yearn and pine
For I was born at Bingen, fair Bingen on the Rhine."

A comrade stood beside to hear what he might say
And took down his dictation as he stored the grub away.
"Take a message to mother and say I'm living fine,
For I was born at Bingen, fair Bingen on the Rhine."

"Just tell her that you saw me and that I was looking fit;
This chow on which I'm feeding, with me has made a hit.
I'll miss the Yankee fodder on which I sued to dine
When I get back to Bingen, fair Bingen on the Rhine."
—L. C. Davis, in Post Dispatch.

"I Built it," Cried T. R.

When Mr. Wilson's war machine was building on the ways,
Republicans regarded it with words of stern dispraise.

"The joints are wobbly," Penrose said.
"The wheels are square," said Root.
"The trolley's loose," said Murray Crane.
"She'll never run," said Smoot.
"They ought to junk the thing," said Hays, "and build a brand new car."
"I can't approve of it," said Lodge.
"It's rotten," cried T. R.

When Mr. Wilson's war machine went rushing down the road
The G. O. P. lads gathered round to see the thing explode;
But when it kept along its course, amid the people's cheers,
They gathered monkey-wrenches up and tossed them in the gears.
"It's slowing up a bit," said Hughes, "it can't go very far."
"I think," said Lodge, "it's going to be"—
"A flivver!" said T. R.

When Mr. Wilson's war machine got working over there,
And presently the kaiser raised a moan of wild despair,
The G. O. P. came swarming up like bees from out a hive.
"I really think," said Mr. Lodge, "they ought to let us drive"
"Beccus of us," said Root and Smoot, "it runs without a jer;
We taught him how to make it go."
"I built it!" cried T. R.

St. Joseph Observer.

SUCCESS

He has achieved success who has
lived well, laughed often, and loved
much; who has gained the trust of
pure women and the love of little children,
who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who has left the

world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem, or a rescued soul; who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it; who has always looked for the best in others and given the best he had; whose life was an inspiration; whose memory a benediction.—B. A. Stanley.

A full measure of the
pleasures of the season,
and a Prosperous and
Happy New Year
for All

is the wish of

TETLEY JEWELRY CO